AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a communications process unit performing a communicating process with a user device

and a system of billing a user [[by]] for up to a predetermined total time through a network; and

a payment process unit performing a payment by communicating with the system of

billing a user by a predetermined time, and obtaining charge information from the system through

the network wherein said system of billing a user by a predetermined time is a parking meter, and

the charge is a parking charge for use of the parking meter.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a communications process unit performing a communicating process with a user device

and a system of billing a user [[by]] for up to a predetermined total time through a network; and

an information providing unit obtaining current use information from the system of

billing a user by a predetermined time according to recorded information transmitted in advance

from the user device or at a request from the user device, and transmitting the obtained use

information to the user device wherein said system of billing a user by a predetermined time is a

parking meter, and the charge is a parking charge for use of the parking meter.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The server according to claim 2, wherein when the payment is made in a ~~front-end~~ <u>pre-</u>payment system for a predetermined time, a message is transmitted to the user device at any time before the predetermined time elapses.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Original): A system use support method, comprising:

transmitting an identification number of a system of billing a user by a predetermined time and user information from a user device; and

obtaining an address of a system of billing a user by a predetermined time corresponding to the identification number, obtaining use information from the system at the address, and adjusting a charge or providing information.

Claim 7 (Original): The method according to claim 6, wherein said system of billing a user by a predetermined time is a parking meter, and the charge is a parking charge for use of the parking meter.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process with a user device and a system of billing a user

[[by]] for up to a predetermined total time through a network; and

performing a payment by communicating with the system of billing a user by a

predetermined time, and obtaining charge information from the system through the network.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program

used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process with a user device and a system of billing a user

[[by]] for up to a predetermined total time through a network; and

obtaining current use information from the system according to recorded information

transmitted in advance from the user device or at a request from the user device, and transmitting

the obtained use information to the user device.

Claim 10 (Original): The storage medium according to claim 8, wherein said system of

billing a user by a predetermined time is a parking meter, and the charge is a parking charge for

use of the parking meter.

Claim 11 (Original): The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein said system of

billing a user by a predetermined time is a parking meter, and the charge is a parking charge for

use of the parking meter.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave storing a computer program used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process with a user device or a system of billing a user [[by]] for up to a predetermined total time through a network; and

performing a payment by communicating with the system of billing a user by a predetermined time, and obtaining charge information from the system through the network.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave storing a computer program used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process with a user device and a system of billing a user [[by]] for up to a predetermined total time through a network; and obtaining current use information from the system according to recorded information transmitted in advance from the user device or at a request from the user device, and transmitting the obtained use information to the user device.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a communications process unit performing a communicating process with a user device through a network;

an information providing unit obtaining use information about a user who uses a system of billing a user [[by]] for up to a predetermined total time, determining a transmission timing of a message according to the obtained use information, and transmitting the message to the user device through the network with the transmission timing; and

a payment unit for making a payment at a payment request from the user device.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process with a user device through a network;

obtaining use information about a user who uses a system of billing a user [[by]] for up to a predetermined total time, determining a transmission timing of a message according to the obtained use information, and transmitting the message to the user device through the network with the transmission timing; and

making a payment at a payment request from the user device.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave storing a computer program used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process with a user device through a network;

obtaining use information about a user who uses a system of billing a user [[by]] for up to a predetermined total time, determining a transmission timing of a message according to the obtained use information, and transmitting the message to the user device through the network with the transmission timing; and

making a payment at a payment request from the user device.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

communications process means for performing a communicating process with a user device and a system of billing a user by a predetermined time through a network; and

payment process means for performing a payment by communicating with the system of

billing a user [[by]] <u>for up to</u> a predetermined <u>total</u> time, and obtaining charge information from

the system through the network.